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Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 28 July 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 51/195 B of 17 December 1996 on the situation in Afghanistan and to my reports, 16 March (A/51/838-S/1997/240 and Corr.1) and 16 June 1997 (A/51/929-S/1997/482), issued pursuant to that resolution. In those reports, I described both the ongoing conflict among the Afghan parties and the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission and the international community to resolve the conflict.

I remain convinced of the need to intensify the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States to help bring about a peaceful solution. I have, therefore, decided to appoint a Special Envoy, Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, to undertake a short-term mission in order to consult interested and relevant countries and parties, as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference, on their positions and proposals related to peacemaking efforts in Afghanistan. I hope that the Special Envoy will be able to submit his findings and recommendations to me in time for my report on Afghanistan to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session. I would stress that the mandate and activities of the Special Envoy are discrete and to be distinguished from those of the United Nations Special Mission, the mandate of which has been specifically defined by the General Assembly in its resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would convey this information to the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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